



Friends of the Santa Clara River

660 Randy Drive Newbury Park, California 91320 (805) 498 - 4323

3-28-03

Ms. Dolores Brown
Chief, Mitigation and Restoration Branch
Dept. of Water Resources
3251 S Street
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

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Re: Notice of Preparation for Monterey Agreement EIR

Dear Ms. Brown:

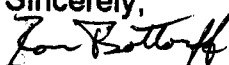
FSCR have been very concerned about the over-statement of state water supplies because of the impact of this mis-information on local surface flows. When SWP water is over-stated, there is no place to go during a drought except to the local ground water. In the case of the Santa Clara River, surface flows are already disappearing because the river is being severely over-drafted. This is causing a loss of habitat and degradation of the water quality (increased TDS, chloride and nitrate levels, see recent report from the Regional Water Quality Board. We are currently litigating the Santa Clarita Regional Urban Water Management Plan because it over-states SWP supplies.

Evaluating SWP supply should include thorough analysis of article 18(a), 18(b) and surplus water (article 21). We hope that this process will help put a stop to the mis-information disseminated locally in environmental documents on this issue.

We request that you also address the issue of the growth-inducing impacts and the conversely linked issue of loss of farm land seemingly promoted by water transfers as we are experiencing here with the huge 21,000 unit Newhall Ranch proposal.

Please also address the issue of potential water privatization and ensuing control, hoarding and manipulation of public water resources that may result from the Kern Fan water bank being 48% privately held. We are already seeing this occur in the Newhall Ranch Project where a private developer has purchased Kern River water and stored it in its private holding in the Semi-Tropic Storage Facility to serve *ONLY ITS OWN PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT*. This project also proposes SWP entitlement transfers directly from farmers. How will you provide oversight for this developing problem?

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We request that we receive all environmental documents and notification.

Sincerely,

Ron Bottorff
Chair

Faxed 3-28-03 - Hard Copy to follow via regular mail